

TWIN SPICA

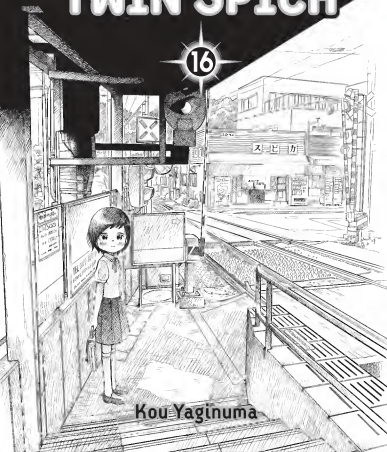
Kou Yaginuma



16

TWIN SPICA

16



Kou Yaginuma



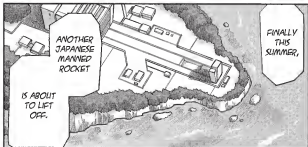
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17 YEARS AFTER
A TRAGEDY THAT
WE WILL NEVER
FORGET—



ANOTHER
JAPANESE
MANNED
ROCKET

IS ABOUT
TO LIFT
OFF.

FINALLY
THIS
SUMMER,



ON THE ISLAND
HOUSING
THE
SECOND
SPACE
CENTER,

SO
WE CAN'T
CONFIRM
DETAILS
OF THE
SITUATION

WITH THE
LAUNCH
JUST A
WEEK AWAY,
ONLY
STAFF ARE
ALLOWED
TO LAND



PREPA-
RATIONS
SHOULD BE
PROCEEDING
AS PLANNED.

BUT GIVEN THAT
THE WEATHER IS
FORECAST TO
HOLD STEADY
AROUND THE
LAUNCH DATE,

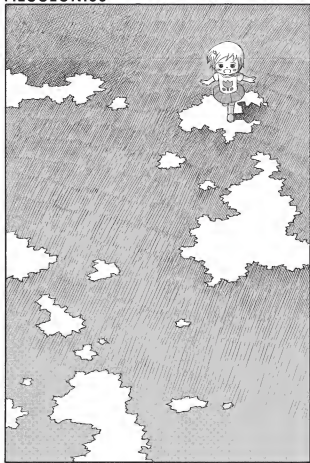


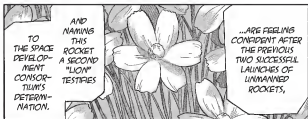
AS IT
QUIENTLY
AWAITS
THE HOUR.



YUUSAHAMA,
THE SCENE
OF THAT
FATEFUL
DISASTER,
IS FILLED
WITH
GREAT HOPE
AND
TENSION

MISSION:83









TO THINK
YOU'D
HAVE TWO
GRAVES

THE
HIKE GETS
HARDER
EACH YEAR.



WELL,
IT TOOK
A LONG
TIME,
BUT IT'S
A LOAD
OFF MY
SHOULDERS.

LOOKS LIKE
I'LL BE ABLE
TO PAY OFF
OUR DEBTS
NEXT MONTH.

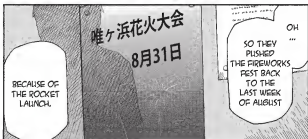


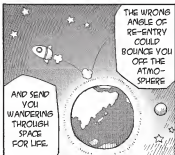
SHE'S STILL
AS TINY
AS EVER,
THOUGH.



ASUMI
WILL
SOON
BE
HEADING
TO SPACE
ON
THE NEW
"LION."













OK,
OK,
BREAK'S
OVER.

AFTERNOON
SHIFT!



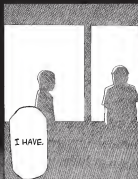
mmmm
mmmm



mmm









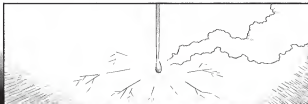
















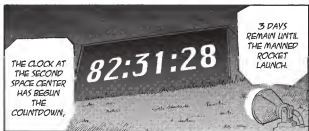












AND TO BE
PREPARING
FOR THE
LAUNCH.



BUT ALL
THREE ARE
REPORTED
TO BE
IN GOOD
HEALTH

WE CANNOT
CONFIRM
THE
CURRENT
STATUS
OF THE
ASTRONAUTS,

SENIOR
AT
T.S.S.

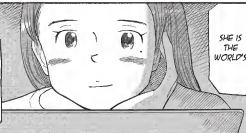
ASSIGNED
THE CRUCIAL
OFF-BOARD
TASKS IS
ASUMI
KAMOSAWA,



TO OUR
NATION'S
OWN
SPACE
STATION
IN ORBIT.

THE PRIMARY
GOAL OF THIS
LAUNCH IS
TO ATTACH A
SOLAR-POWER
GENERATOR
SATELLITE

YOUNGEST
ASTRO-
NAUT.



SHE IS
THE
WORLD'S

TO: Kei Oumi

I'M GOING.

ASUMI (* . . . *)

MISSION:84

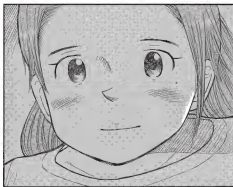


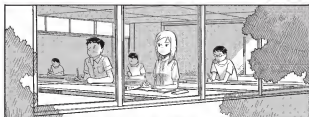














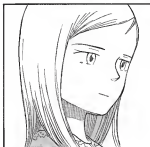


THE HISTORY OF
JAPAN'S SPACE
PROGRAM,
BEGINNING
WITH THE PENCIL
ROCKET AND
CULMINATING
WITH "THE LION"

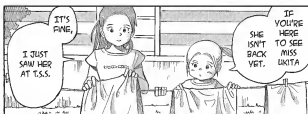
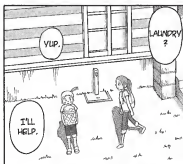


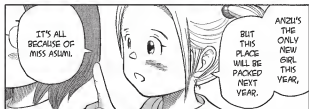


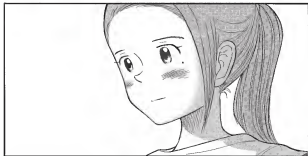


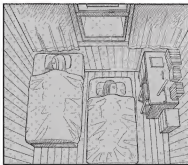




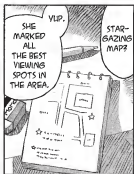
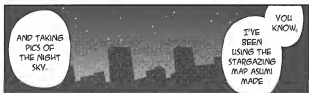








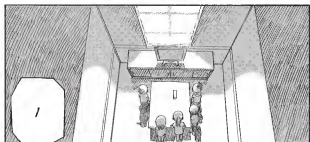
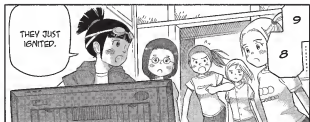


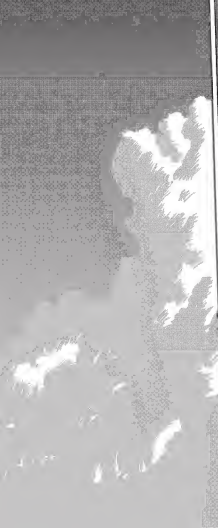








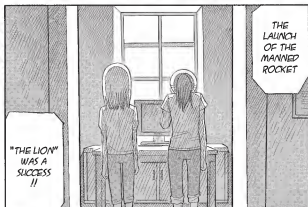












MISSION:85





YOU'LL
BE
GETTING
EVEN
BUSIER.

THE
LAUNCH
IS LESS
THAN
A YEAR
AWAY.

YEAH.
THIS
IS MY
SECOND
NIGHT IN
A ROW.

YOU
STAYING
HERE,
TOO?



IT'S SMALL
AND AT THE
TRIAL STAGE,
BUT WE'RE
RUSHING TO
GET IT ONTO
"THE LION."

THERE
AREN'T
MANY OF US
IN THE
SOLAR-
GENERATOR
SATELLITE
TEAM.

HM?
AH.
YES,
SHE
WAS.



I
HEARD
YOUR
BABY
WAS
JUST
RELEAS-
ED
FROM
THE
HOS-
PITAL.

MY WIFE
PICKED
THE
NAME.

SHE
SEEMED
TO KNOW
BEFORE
SHE WAS
BORN IT'D
BE A GIRL.

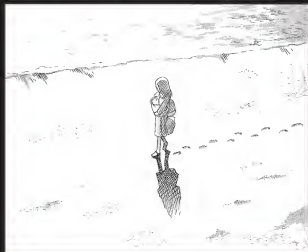
ASUMI,
MEANING
"LOOKING
TO TOMOR-
ROW."

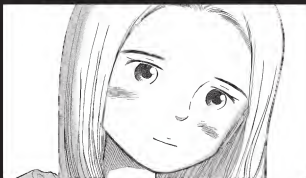
ASUMI
KAMO-
GAWA.

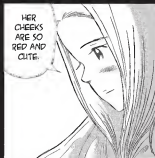
DID I
ASK YOU
HER
NAME?

A
GIRL,
WAS
IT?











YUP.

I WENT
AND
PRAYED.

A
CHARM
?



I PRAYED
FOR ASUMI
TO BE
HEALTHY AND
STRONG HER
WHOLE LIFE.



THAT
SHE'D
BE SO
FORTUNATE.

NO
MATTER
WHAT
TROUBLE
SHE MAY
MEET—

I PRAYED
THAT SHE'LL
ALWAYS HAVE
SOMEONE
TO QUIETLY
WATCH
OVER HER.

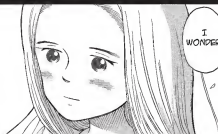
A KIND GIRL
WHO CAN
BRING
HAPPINESS
TO
SOMEONE.

AND
I
PRAYED
FOR
HER
TO BE

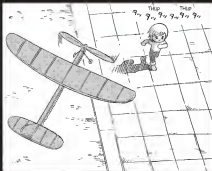


WHAT
DREAMS
SHE'LL
HAVE.

I
WONDER





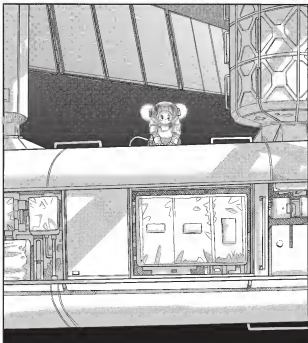


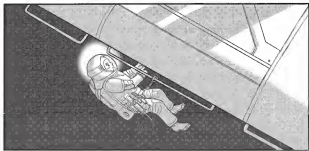
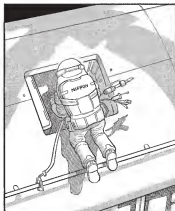


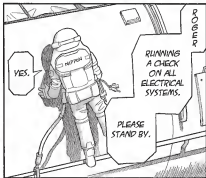




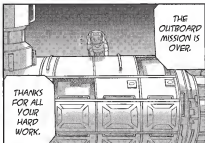




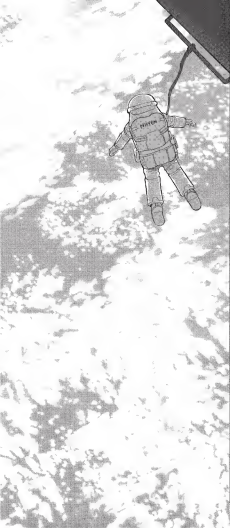




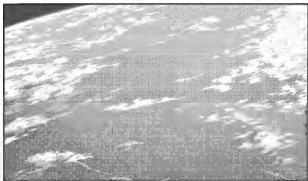


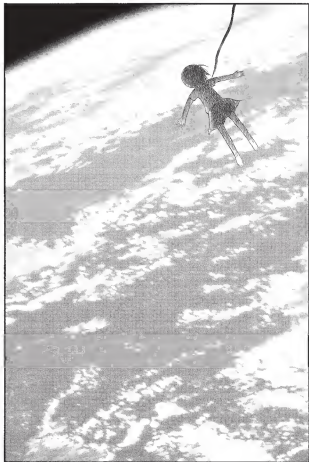














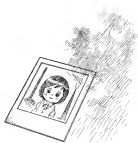






AND
TO YOU,
MR. LION.









IT HAS BEEN
A MONTH SINCE
WE REPORTED
TO YOU
THE SUCCESSFUL
LAUNCH AND
RETURN OF
"THE LION."



IS ALREADY
TAKING STEPS
TOWARD
THE NEXT
MANNED
ROCKET
LAUNCH.

THE SPACE
DEVELOP-
MENT
CONSOR-
TIUM



AS
JAPANESE
SPACE
DEVELOP-
MENT
ENTERS
A NEW
ERA.

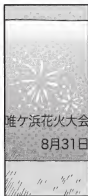
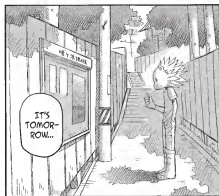
YOUNG
PEOPLE WILL
TRAVEL
TO SPACE
ONE AFTER
ANOTHER



THE PLAN
IS FOR THE
NEXT ROCKET
TO HAVE A
SPACE SCHOOL
STUDENT ON
BOARD AS
WELL.

ASTRO-
NAUT
ASUMI
KAMO-
GAWA

GIVEN THE
EXCELLENT
PERFORM-
ANCE OF
T.S.S.
STUDENT
AND

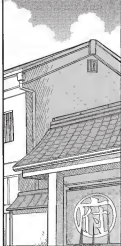


MISSION:86





SHINNO-SUKE.



GIVE THE CAKES TO THE HEAD PRIEST.
THE OLD MAN LIKES SWEETS.

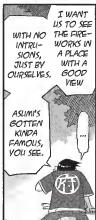
THIS IS THE SAKE
FOR THE OFFERING.



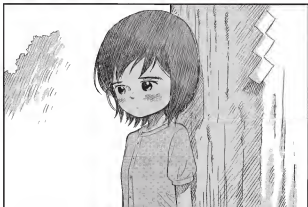
I KNOW,
I'M NOT A KID.
GEEZ!

BE SURE TO STOP BY THE
YUUSAHAMA SHRINE ON
THE WAY BACK.





















I WENT
TO
SPACE.

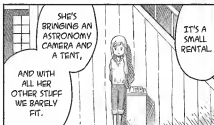
MOM.

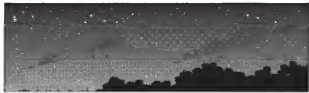
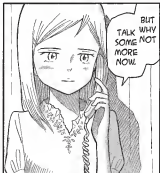


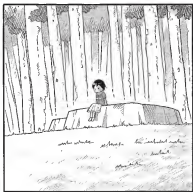
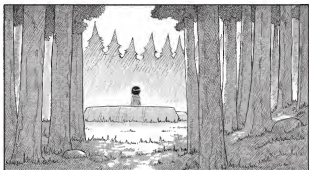
AND CAME
BACK.

I WENT
TO SPACE



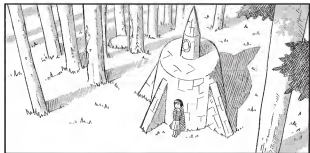
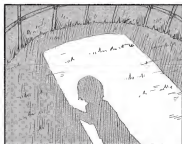
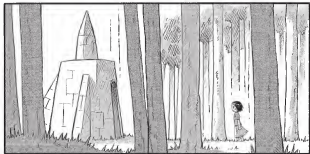




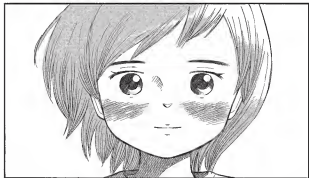






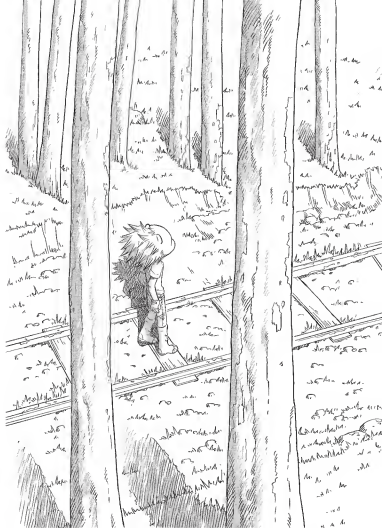


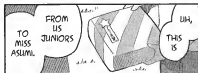






I'M HOME.











THEN
WHY RUSH
ME?

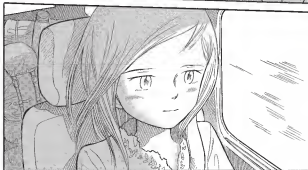
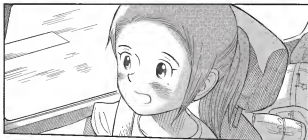
6EEZ

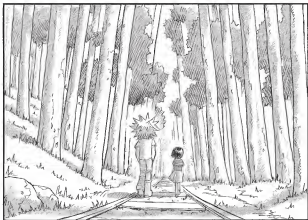
NP



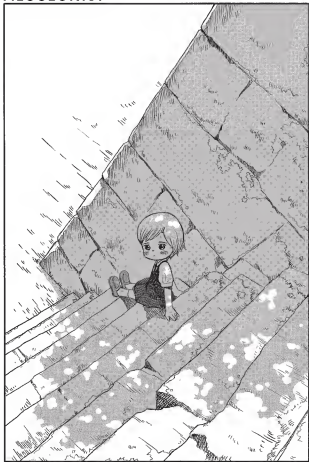
BUT
WE'LL
BE
FINE.

IT'S
TOUGH
WITHOUT
GPS,

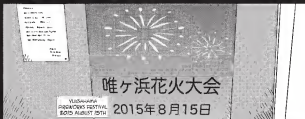
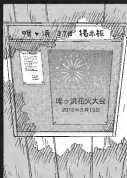




MISSION:87

















WHAT'S
UP,
GRAMPS
?
WHY
ARE
WE
HERE
?



THE
FIRE-
WORKS
FEST IS
COMING
UP.
WE
HAVE
TO
PRAY
TO
THE
GOD
HERE
FOR
IT
ALL
TO
GO
OFF
WITHOUT
A
WITCH.



カラン

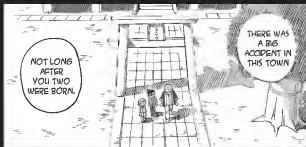
カラン



COME.

LINE
UP
OVER
HERE.





MADE
OF WOOD.
THE
SPARKS
THAT
FELL SET
WHOLE
PARTS OF
THE TOWN
ABLAZE.

MANY HOUSES
IN YUIGAHAMA
HAD BEEN
AROUND
FOR LONG
AND WERE

WE CARRIED THE
FIREWORKS OUT
BUT THERE WERE
SO MANY,
IT WAS TAKING
TOO LONG...

WE WERE
PREPARED
FOR THE
WORST.

IF THE
FLAMES
REACHED
OUR
FIRE-
WORKS
WARE-
HOUSE,
IT
WOULD
GET
MUCH
WORSE.

SO OUR
HOUSE
AND THE
KAMOGAWAS'
WERE
SPARED.

ODDLY
ENOUGH,
THE FLAMES
DIED DOWN
NEAR THE
GROUNDS OF
THIS SHRINE.





IT'S
4 A.M.

WHY
ARE YOU
YELL-
ING?

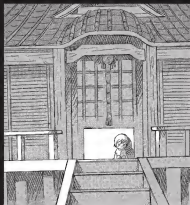
18
19
18
9



OH,
NO!
SHINNO-
SUKE,
GET UP!











EVERYONE
SHOULDERS
THEIR OWN
BURDENS.

EVEN
A KID
LIKE
HER.

KNOCK
IT
OFF.

SHE'S
FAST
ASLEEP.
BEEZ.

DUM-
MY!

スッ
ワッ

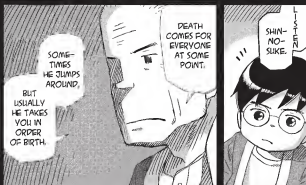
スッ
ワッ



BUT
I'M SURE
SHE HAD
HER
REASONS.

I DON'T
KNOW
'EM.

BURDENS
?



SOME-
TIMES
HE JUMPS
AROUND,

BUT
USUALLY
HE TAKES
YOU IN
ORDER
OF BIRTH.

DEATH
COMES FOR
EVERYONE
AT SOME
POINT.

SHIN-
NO-
SUKE.



AS COMRADES
WHO BREATHE
THE AIR OF
THE SAME
EPOCH.

IT'S QUITE A
MIRACULOUS
THING,
ACTUALLY.

MEANS
LIVING
THE SAME
TIME THAT
MUCH,

BEING
BORN IN
THE SAME
PERIOD IN
THE SAME
PLACE



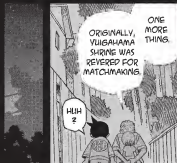
TAKE
BETTER
CARE OF
HER.

THIS
GIRL

IS SPECIAL
TO YOU.



WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING
?
I DON'T
GET IT.



ORIGINALLY,
YUIGAHAMA
SHRINE WAS
REVERED FOR
MATCHMAKING.

ONE
MORE
THING.

HUH
?

















MISSION:88

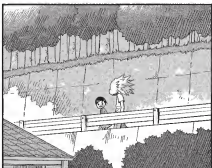


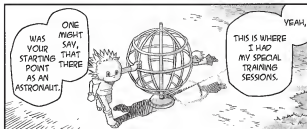
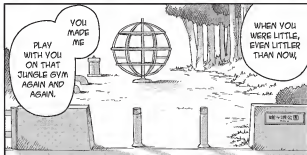


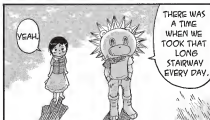




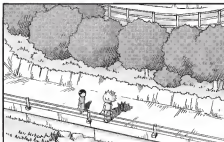
LOOKS
LIKE
THEY'LL
BE
LATE.
THEY
SAID
WE'LL
MEET
THERE.











NO ENTRY
EXCEPT FOR
AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL

Yuguhama
Fireworks
Festival
Committee



THIS
SURE
IS A
VIP
SPOT.
ON
THE
WATER,
NO
PEOPLE
CAN
WATCH
THEM
IN
PEACE.



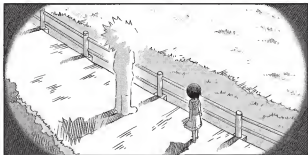
ALAS,
THIS
YEAR
I DON'T
THINK I
CAN BE
HERE FOR
THE ENTIRE
DISPLAY.

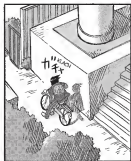


KINDA FAR
FROM THE
MAIN
AREA,
BUT IT WAS
THOUGHTFUL
OF THE
BRAT.



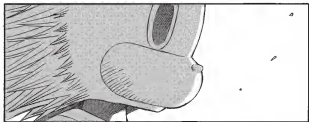


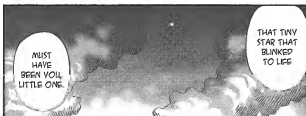


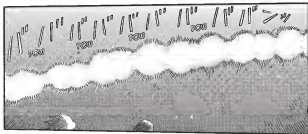


















AND THEN
YOU CAN RIDE
IN MY SPACESHIP
FOR FREE!

I-I
...
WHEN I
GROW UP,
I'M GONNA BE
A ROCKET
DRIVER!!



VESSIR!

TODAY'S
TRAINING
IS OVER!



MR. LION.



MR. LION!

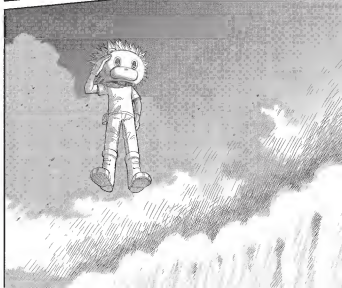
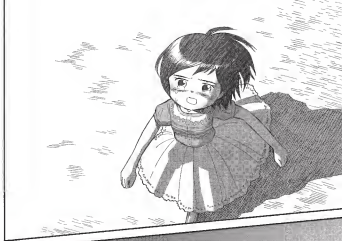
YOU AREN'T
EVER GONNA
DISAPPEAR,
ARE YOU?

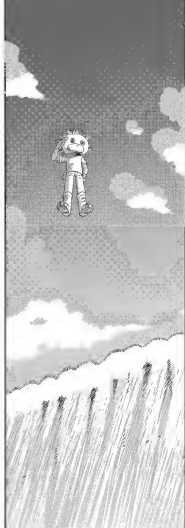


YOU'LL
ALWAYS

BE WITH
ME,
RIGHT?



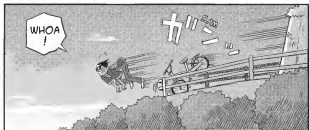


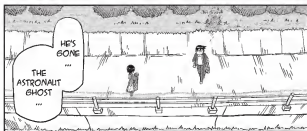






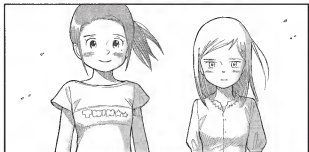


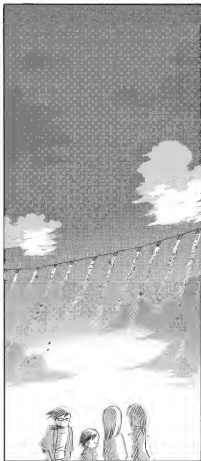




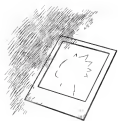


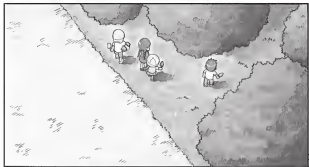
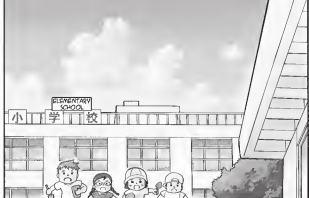






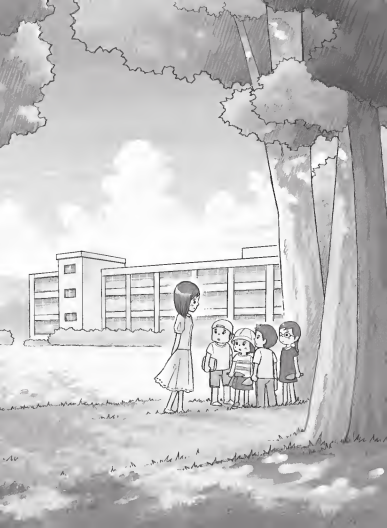


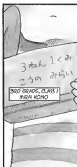






MISSION:89







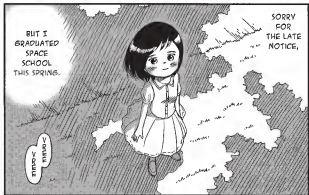
I'VE
GROWN
OUT
MY HAIR,
JUST
A LITTLE.

IT'S
BEEN
NEARLY
A YEAR
SINCE THAT
DAY.



IS
DAZZLING
UNDER
TALL SKIES.

AS USUAL,
SUMMER
IN
YUUBAHAMA



BUT I
GRADUATED
SPACE
SCHOOL
THIS SPRING.

SORRY
FOR
THE LATE
NOTICE,

ENDING
ENDING



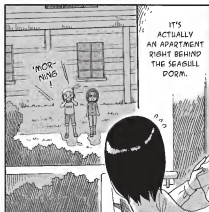
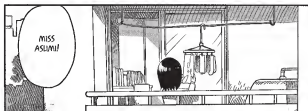
AND THERE
WAS THAT
ODD
GRADUATION
CEREMONY
FOR ONE.

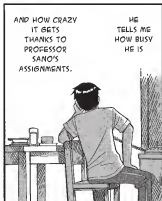
I WAS BUSY
WRITING
ABOUT MY
EXPERIENCE
IN SPACE
FOR MY
THESIS,
SHUT-
TLING
BETWEEN
CENTER
AND
SCHOOL,

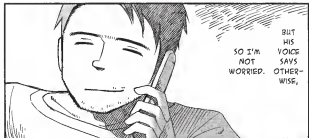


IT WAS
A VERY
FULFILLING
FOUR YEARS
RIGHT TO
THE END.









BUT
HIS
VOICE
SAYS
OTHER-
WISE,
SO I'M
NOT
WORRIED.



AND
RESEARCHING
WAYS TO BUILD
AN ORBIT
ELEVATOR.

HE'S BEEN
WORKING ON
LAUNCHING
A SMALL
SATELLITE.

HELLO
?



LOOKS
LIKE
IT'LL BE
A WHILE
YET
BEFORE
DAD
AND
PROF-
ESSOR
SANO'S
DREAMS
COME
TRUE.

DAD?
DID YOU
FALL
ASLEEP?







MARIKA'S
WORKING
HARD IN
THE MEDICAL
COURSE.



HAVE
A BAD
COUGHING
SEEMS
TO BE
HOLDING
UP
FINE.

FIT OR
TAKE
TO BED,
SO HER
BODY



BUT KEI
AND I
HAVEN'T
SEEN
HER

WATCHING

FOR

SAVED



I DO
WORRY
ABOUT
HER
HEALTH.

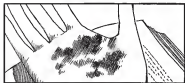
SHE'S
OFTEN
UP ALL
NIGHT
STUDYING.



SHE MIGHT
CHOOSE THAT
AS HER
RESEARCH TOPIC,
AS A MEDICAL
MAJOR.

IS
INTERESTED
IN THE
EFFECTS OF
MANUFACTURING
MEDICINE
IN SPACE.

MARIKA



AND
KEEP ON
LIVING...

LIVE
AND
LIVE

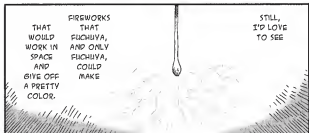


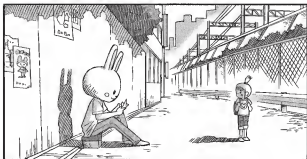
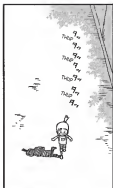
MARIKA WILL
REALLY
DEVELOP
A MEDICINE
TO CURE

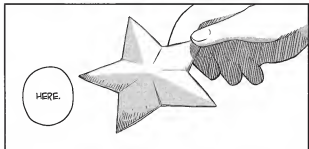
HER
OWN
ILLNESS.

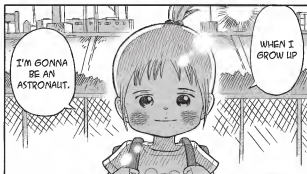
I HAVE
A FEELING
THAT
SOMEDAY

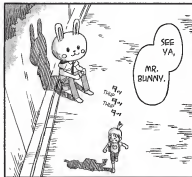






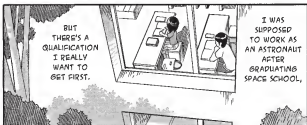








NOW
ATTEND
A FOUR-
YEAR
COLLEGE.



BUT
THERE'S A
QUALIFICATION
I REALLY
WANT TO
GET FIRST.

I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO WORK AS
AN ASTRONAUT
AFTER
GRADUATING
SPACE SCHOOL,



I WANT TO
BE SOMEONE
WHO CAN
TEACH
LITTLE KIDS
TO
DREAM.

JUST LIKE
YOU TAUGHT
ME ALL
KINDS OF
THINGS,
MR. LION,



I WANT
TO BE
DOING
IT,
BIT BY
BIT.

IF
THERE'S
ANYTHING
I CAN DO
NOW TO
GET CLOSER
TO THAT
GOAL,



I
WANT
TO BE ABLE
TO TEACH
GRADE
SCHOOL.

I'LL
ALSO BE
AN ASTRO-
NAUT ON
THE NEXT
MANNED
ROCKET
IN FOUR
YEARS.

MY MAIN WORK
FOR THEM IS
LECTURING AT
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS
AROUND
THE COUNTRY
ABOUT
SPACE.



THANKS TO
THE CONSORTIUM'S
UNDERSTANDING,
I'M EMPLOYED
PART-TIME
WHILE I STUDY
FOR MY
TEACHING
DEGREE.

BUT I'M
PULLING
IT OFF WITH
EVERYONE'S
SUPPORT.



JUGGLING
SCHOOL
AND WORK
CAN BE
TOUGH,

EVER SINCE
KINDER-
GARTEN,
WE'VE GOT A
MYSTERIOUS
CONNECTION.

COME TO
THINK OF IT,
WE'VE EVEN
BEEN IN
THE SAME
CLASS



FUCHIYA
AND I
WOUND
UP AT
THE SAME
SCHOOL
AGAIN.

UH,
RIGHT.

LOOK
WHERE
YOU'RE
GOING.



KAMO-
DUM-
MY!

TO
TELL
THE
TRUTH
...







I WANT TO BE
A ROCKET
DRIVER.

WHEN
I GROW
UP,

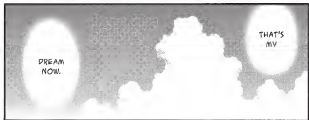
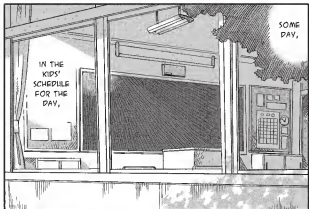
AND LOOK
DOWN ON
YUUSAHAMA
BAY.

I'LL
BECOME
A ROCKET
DRIVER
AND
GO WAY
UP IN
SPACE

THAT'S
MY DREAM.

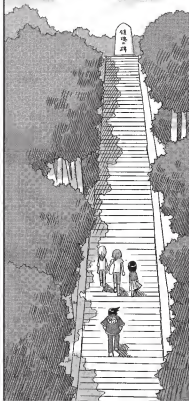






TALKING
ABOUT OUR
SCHOOL
DAYS AND
SPACE

I BET
WE'LL KEEP
GATHERING
HERE EACH
SUMMER



THIS
YEAR,

KEI,
MARIKA,
FUCHUYA
AND I

ARE
BACK IN
YUIGAHAMA
AGAIN.



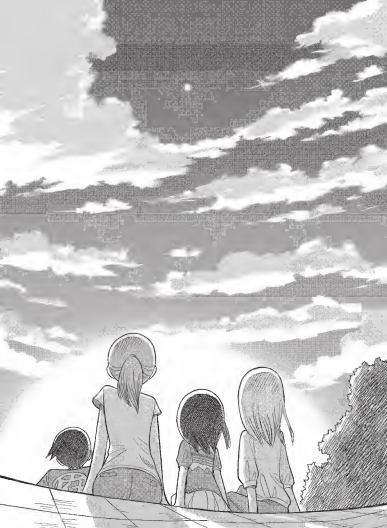
BEYOND
THOSE
CLOUDS.

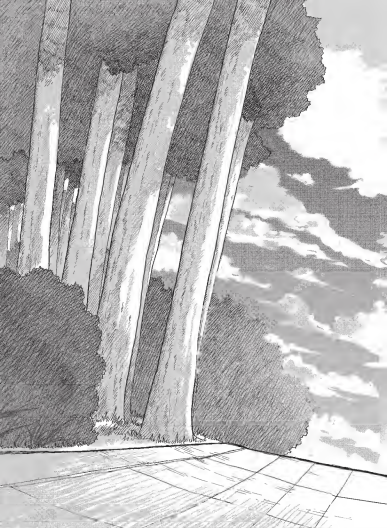


WONDERING
WHEREABOUTS
IN THOSE SKIES
WE SAW YOU,

ALWAYS,
ALWAYS
LOOKING
UP









ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA

I want to thank everyone involved with this project.



Before I pass out in a haze,



I've managed to bring this long tale to a close.



Autumn. The air is a bit chilly.



Thank you so much.



I'LL BRING EARPLUGS NEXT TIME.



my friend Y, who silently erased my pencil marks while I sawed logs in my sleep:

First off,



The beautiful backgrounds in chapter 44 found among my inexpert drawings are all Oishi's work.



yet you pulled all-nighters with me when I was in a pinch. Thank you so much.



You're always busier than I,

Masaru Oishi, manga artist and my classmate since middle school:



I don't think any
newbie artist has
ever turned
an editor-in-chief
into an assistant
before.



especially
part-timer Y
and editor F,
who both worked
for free so
many times:

Thank
you
so much.



even as
you chafed
at the
frequent
delays;

Editorial
staff who
helped with
blacks
and
tones



gave
me the
strength
to keep
writing.

Your
frank,
pure
words



sorry to
respond
here, but:
Thank you
so much.

And
the girl
in middle
school who
sent letters
with no
name or
address,



Thank
you
so much.

Thank
you.



all of you
who've
turned these
pages:



And of
course,



to a
means late-
much 30's
to "middle-
me, aged
man" 20's
"youth"



Not that
going from a
late-
late-
20's
"youth"

and
I've certainly
aged
9 years.



The "young"
descriptor
has been
dropped
from my bio



Looking
back,
it's been
9 years.



would
now be
attending
space
school.



a little girl
who'd
started
1st grade



but I feel
the passing
of time
when
I realize

I changed
my mind
countless
times,
but being the sort
who spends
half a day
worrying
over a tiny bit
of grammar,



with such
a resolve,
I embarked
on this
series,



Even if
it gets
dropped,
I'll draw
all that
I want
to draw—



What is
the green
star
Fuchuya
saw?



Why are
Marika's
eyes
green?

Why is
Asumi the
only one without
a compass
for the survival
training?



and
there were
many
plotlines
I couldn't
fully fill out.



I'd be glad if you
supplemented
those points using
your own free
imagination.



Any-
ways.



turned her into
such a bossy
person.

And the terrible
thing that
happened to
Kei in middle
school that



I must
say

I'm quite
relieved
about
that.



In particular,
the
departures

of Shu
and
Mr. Lion.



Still

I managed
to draw

all the
signpost
scenes
I decided on
when I first
set out.



or
all that
special.



Days
where
nothing
was new



I've
lived
days
full of
shame.



Over
these
many
volumes,



what the
future has
in store
for me.



I don't
know

but most
likely,

the days
will go on,
nothing
new or
all that
special.



or lose
my way
deep in
a vast
forest,



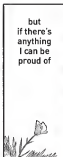
I might
get lost

wandering
around
in the
big city





it would
have to be



but
if there's
anything
I can be
proud of



I don't have
any special
talents or
erudition,
being
just lame
old me,

SUMO
X
I'M
WRITING
MYSELF
INTO A
DEPRESSION.



I may be
stocky,
with
short limbs
and a
chronic
slouch.

SHUT
UP!

AND
YOUR
FACE
?



Twin Spica.



Yet



loved
you all.



I've



Notes on the Translation

P. 49, 192

While *mikan* meant "tangerine," *anzu* means "apricot." Continuing the tradition, the newest additions to Seagull Dorm are christened after fruits, too: *momo* is "peach" and *ichigo* "strawberry." While Japanese speakers frequently use *peechi* and *suforoberii*, there is no native term for "lemon" so the English word is employed for the citrus.



Production - Hiroko Mizuno
Nicole Doehlych
Tomoe Tsutsumi

Twin Spica, volume 16

© Kou Yaginuma

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by MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., Tokyo 2009
Futatsu no Supika first serialized in Gekkan Comic Flapper,
MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., 2001-2009

This is a work of fiction.

e-ISBN: 978-1-939130-94-5

First Edition

Vertical, Inc.
451 Park Avenue South, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10016
www.vertical-inc.com

The beloved series drew critical acclaim, and to an end, this is the final volume of the English edition.

"It's nothing without being melodramatic. The drama is well done and very compelling. Like life, it doesn't pull any punches, but it still has an uplifting feeling about the future. Whether you're interested in space travel or science fiction or not, the characters and drama of this tale are just too compelling to pass up." — *Comics Village*

"In all honesty, *Twins Space* is a perfect demonstration of good choice and foresight I never expected to see from a domestic publisher. *Twins Space* truly inspires a side of me that I thought died along with the rest of my childhood." — *Andrew Gerard*

